

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The claims in this listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Original) A telephone-controlled home appliance system comprising:  
a plurality of telephone jacks commonly connected to a same telephone line, said telephone jacks receiving ringing signals transmitted from a central office;  
a plurality of home appliances respectively connected to said telephone jacks;  
a microcomputer installed in each of said home appliances, each of said microprocessors configured such that when the number of the ringing signals received through a corresponding one of said telephone jacks connected with a corresponding one of said home appliances is equal to a predetermined reference value, the microprocessor outputs an off-hook control signal to set a call signal line connected with the corresponding telephone jack to an off-hook mode; and  
a telephone controller installed in each of said home appliances for modulating said ringing signals received through said corresponding telephone jack into pulse signals, a number of said pulse signals counted by said microcomputer and setting said call signal line connected with said corresponding telephone jack to said off-hook mode in response to said off-hook control signal from said microcomputer.

2. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 1, wherein said telephone controller comprises:  
a ringing signal modulator that modulates said ringing signals received through said corresponding telephone jack into said pulse signals and outputs the modulated pulse signals to said microcomputer; and

a hook switch circuit that sets said call signal line connected with said corresponding telephone jack to said off-hook mode in response to said off-hook control signal from said microcomputer.

3. (Previously Presented) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 2, wherein said ringing signal modulator comprises:

a clipper that clips each of said ringing signals received through said corresponding telephone jack when said ringing signal is above a predetermined threshold level; and

a photocoupler that applies an output signal from said clipper to said microcomputer.

4. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 3, wherein said clipper includes a pair of Zener diodes connected in series.

5. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 2, wherein said microcomputer is configured to count the number of rising edges of said pulse signals from said ringing signal modulator and output said off-hook control signal when the counted number has reached said predetermined reference value.

6. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 5, wherein said microcomputer is configured to count the number of rising edges after lapse of a predetermined period of time from the reception of each of said pulse signals from said ringing signal modulator.

7. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 2, wherein said hook switch circuit includes a transistor that is turned ON in

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response to said off-hook control signal from said microcomputer to apply a supply voltage to a relay connected to said call signal line.

8. (Previously Presented) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 1, further comprising an automatic answering unit that receives the ringing signals transmitted from said central office and, when the number of the received ringing signals is equal to a second predetermined reference value, automatically entering a call connection state to perform an automatic answering operation.

9. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system according to claim 8, wherein said microcomputer is configured, when a pulse signal is not received from said telephone controller within a predetermined period of time after the number of said pulse signals from said telephone controller has reached said second predetermined reference value, to recognize that said automatic answering unit is in operation and to output said off-hook control signal to set said call signal line connected with said corresponding telephone jack to said off-hook mode.

10. (Original) The telephone-controlled home appliance system as set forth in claim 1, wherein said home appliances are each controlled according to a dual-tone multifrequency (DTMF) signal, said DTMF signal being received through said corresponding telephone jack when said call signal line is set to said off-hook mode.

11-14. (Canceled)